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## Cat warms up after two days stuck in tree

January 17, 2009

**THANA DHARMARAJAH**  
MERCURY STAFF

GUELPH

Rescued after two days in a large tree, a grey and white tabby is nursing his bright pink nose at the Guelph Humane Society.

"He was very cold," said Jason Boles, a wildlife technician with Humane Wildlife Control. "His nose was beet red, which is an indication that an animal is in a deep freeze."

The residents of 17 Eliot Pl. noticed the tabby in their tree Sunday. By Monday, they were concerned and called the humane society.

An animal control officer went over to check on him.

"He was just sitting in the tree," Guelph Humane Society executive director Elizabeth Bonkink said. "He wasn't distressed."

The officer placed some food at the bottom of the tree, but by Tuesday the cat still hadn't made his way down.

Temperatures that evening were expected to dip to -23 C with the wind chill, so humane society officials decided it was best to bring the cat down. They called in the help of Humane Wildlife Control.

Cats don't often have the greatest depth perception, Bonkink said.

"Going up is easier, but coming back down can be extremely overwhelming."

It's why the humane society has nicknamed the tabby Wrong Way Jay.

Bonkink said they don't know why he climbed up the tree. He might have chased a bird or been trying to get his paws off the cold ground, she said.

Boles brought along a 32-foot ladder and propped it up against the tree.

Climbing up, he noticed Wrong Way Jay heading out onto a thin branch.

"I thought it was going to break and the cat was going to fall on the ground," he said.








Within a minute, the tabby made his way, meowing, to the large trunk on top of Boles' ladder.

"There was a bit of a relief. His body sagged into my arms."

Boles said thankfully Wrong Way Jay hadn't suffered from frostbite after his two days.

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However, he said the tabby's muscular movements were limited and observed to be slow and sluggish.

Wrong Way Jay will be staying at the Guelph Humane Society until someone claims him. If no one comes forward, he will be put up for adoption next Wednesday.

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